



Your Fee Dollars at Work in Shenandoah

Shenandoah is one of 130+ national parks that charge an entrance fee. Eighty percent of the money collected is used, by law, for projects that have a direct benefit to visitors. For example, in 2014 about 65 temporary employees were hired to improve the trails and facilities, lead Ranger hikes and programs, maintain Skyline Drive and its beautiful vistas, and more! The remaining 20% goes to parks that don't charge a fee to help them with visitor services.



Doyles River Cabin Rehabilitation

Beautiful new cedar shake shingles, copper flashing, and rock work are all part of the rehabilitation work on the historic Doyles River Cabin. Historic Preservation Technical Center crews also installed a cast iron wood-burning stove, replaced rotted logs, and rechinked the entire cabin exterior using local materials. The cabin is rented to hikers by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.



Vista Clearing

The expansive views from Skyline Drive's many overlooks aren't there by accident! Careful planning by the Drive's original architects created the opportunity for views, but they must be constantly maintained. The vegetation grows up and obscures the vistas many of you have traveled to see. So, your fee dollars are used to help keep them clear and gorgeous!

Shenandoah's managers and staff appreciate your support. We will continue to put your money to work in your park, on projects that will improve your experience and protect the natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Here are some highlights of some of the recently completed and planned projects.



New Interpretive Signage

As you travel along Skyline Drive, notice the new signage at overlooks, trailheads, and other stops. All of the signs have been replaced or will be soon. New technology allows us to use beautiful images to help tell Shenandoah's stories. You'll find valuable information and new maps at many trailheads. Near entrances and at campgrounds redesigned panels introduce flora and fauna.



Trail Improvements

There are over 500 miles of trails in Shenandoah National Park. Every year hundreds of thousands of people hike on them. That's a lot of footsteps! Add to that the occasional ice or wind storm and a few torrential downpours and we've got a mess! But Shenandoah's trail crews come to the rescue. Your fee dollars fund many of the folks who keep your trails safe and well maintained.



Campground Improvements

Money collected through fees is also used for major rehabilitation projects. Some of it is the "invisible" infrastructure needed to provide visitor services like water treatment and sewer lines. Some of it you'll notice right away. Visitors to Mathews Arm and Loft Mountain Campgrounds will see renovations to the restrooms. These improvements are also fee-funded!

Planned for 2015

- Rehabilitate more historic overlooks and vistas
- Preserve forest health through eradication of invasives
- Rehabilitate more trails including the completion of the fully accessible Limberlost Trail
- Install nightsky-preserving lighting at Byrd Visitor Center parking lot
- Print the official park brochure in multiple languages
- Provide additional services for visitors with low vision and hearing loss